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LANDS AND FORESTS
TECHNICAL NOTE

MOOSE HARVEST REPORT 1989

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The 1989 moose season for 200 licensed hunters took place in Victoria and Inverness counties for five days October 2-6. Licensed hunters were permitted to take one moose regardless of sex or age and were required to register their moose, turn in the jawbone for aging, and provide information concerning their hunt and their kill.

Of the 200 licensed holders, 168 were successful in killing and registering a moose for a success rate of 84 percent. Most of the hunting and the kill was in the Highlands area of Victoria and Inverness counties, south of the Cape Breton Highlands National Park.

Ages of 156 of the moose harvested were obtained.

The registered kill consisted of 137 males, 134 of which were antlered yearlings or adults, and 31 females, 30 of which were 1 1/2 years old or older.

Successful hunters during this hunt reported 2707.08 hours hunting for an average 16.11 hours per kill. Average party size reported was 3.80 for a total 10,315.91 person-hours of hunting for successful groups registering their kill.

Table 1 shows the sex and age of animals registered by licensed hunters.

Following the open season for license holders to hunt moose, persons recognized by the various organizations representing people with Micmac ancestry were permitted to hunt moose on the Highlands and to kill up to 82 moose under an agreement with the Province. Reports from the Micmacs indicate that 55 moose were harvested.

Of the 43 moose from which data were taken, 26 were males and 17 were females. Ages were obtained from only 28 moose; hunters who took the remaining moose reported they were going to have the heads mounted and did not want the jawbones removed. Table 2 indicates the total sex and age data obtained from this hunt.

During this hunt successful hunters registering their kill reported 541.5 hours or an average of 14.3 hours per kill. Average party size reported was 3.26 for a total of 1660 person-hours of hunting for successful groups registering their kill.

Biological data obtained from the moose registered during the 1989 hunt indicate 163 males and 48 females.

There were 138 males aged and 46 females aged for a total of 184 moose, as shown on Table 3. The average age of aged males taken was 3.09 years and that of females 2.61 years. Comparing average ages of moose harvested during the past four years shows no major change but suggests an increasing average age among males. The average ages were:

	Males	Females
1986	2.90	2.93
1987	2.93	3.09
1988	3.43	2.30
1989	3.09	2.61

The yearling component of the yearling-and-older harvest—an indicator of mortality levels in stable populations—shows a declining trend in males and an erratic pattern in females, probably due to the very small sample size for females. The proportion of yearlings in the four years of harvest was:

	Males	Females
1986	35.2%	23.5%
1987	28.2%	25.0%
1988	24.4%	48.8%
1989	22.2%	32.6%

From data obtained, it appears that our managed hunt is providing a kill within the sustainable yield of the present herd south of the National Park.

Table 4 indicates average weights by sex and age group of moose registered and Table 5 gives average antler parameters.

Figure 1 provides a map of the Highlands area south of the National Park; 1989 moose kills are plotted on it.

Table 1. *Sex and Age of Moose Registered by Licensed Hunters, Nova Scotia, 1989.*

AGE	MALE	FEMALE	UNKNOWN	TOTAL
0.5	3	1	0	4
1.5	22	11	0	33
2.5	45	9	0	54
3.5	30	8	0	38
4.5	15	0	0	15
5.5-6.5	7	1	0	8
7.5-8.5	2	0	0	2
9.5-10.5	1	0	0	1
11.5-13.5	1	0	0	1
14.5-16.5	0	0	0	0
UNKNOWN	11	1	0	12
TOTAL	**137**	**31**	**0**	**168**

Table 2. *Sex and Age of Moose Reported Taken by Native Hunters, Nova Scotia, 1989.*

AGE	MALE	FEMALE	UNKNOWN	TOTAL
0.5	0	2	0	2
1.5	8	3	0	11
2.5	0	4	0	4
3.5	3	2	0	5
4.5	1	4	0	5
5.5-6.5	0	1	0	1
7.5-8.5	0	0	0	0
9.5-10.5	0	0	0	0
11.5-13.5	0	0	0	0
14.5-16.5	0	0	0	0
UNKNOWN	14	1	0	15
TOTAL	**26**	**17**	**0**	**43**

Table 3. *Sex and age of Total Known Moose Harvest, Nova Scotia, 1989.*

AGE	MALE	FEMALE	UNKNOWN	TOTAL
0.5	3	3	0	6
1.5	30	14	0	44
2.5	45	13	0	58
3.5	33	10	0	43
4.5	16	4	0	20
5.5-6.5	7	2	0	9
7.5-8.5	2	0	0	2
9.5-10.5	1	0	0	1
11.5-13.5	1	0	0	1
14.5-16.5	0	0	0	0
UNKNOWN	25	2	0	27
TOTAL	**163**	**48**	**0**	**211**

Table 4. *Average Weights by Sex and Age Group; Moose Registered, Nova Scotia, 1989.*

	Male		**Female**	
AGE	NUMBER WEIGHTED	AVERAGE WT. (KG)	NUMBER WEIGHED	AVERAGE WT (KG)
0.5	3	120	1	60
1.5	28	218	14	215
2.5	42	322	12	250
3.5	25	352	10	281
4.5	15	387	3	248
5.5-6.5	6	407	2	308
7.5-8.5	2	375	0	
9.5-10.5	1	355	0	
11.5-13.5	1	375	0	
14.5-16.5	0		0	
UNKNOWN	36	353	4	175
TOTAL	**159**		**46**	

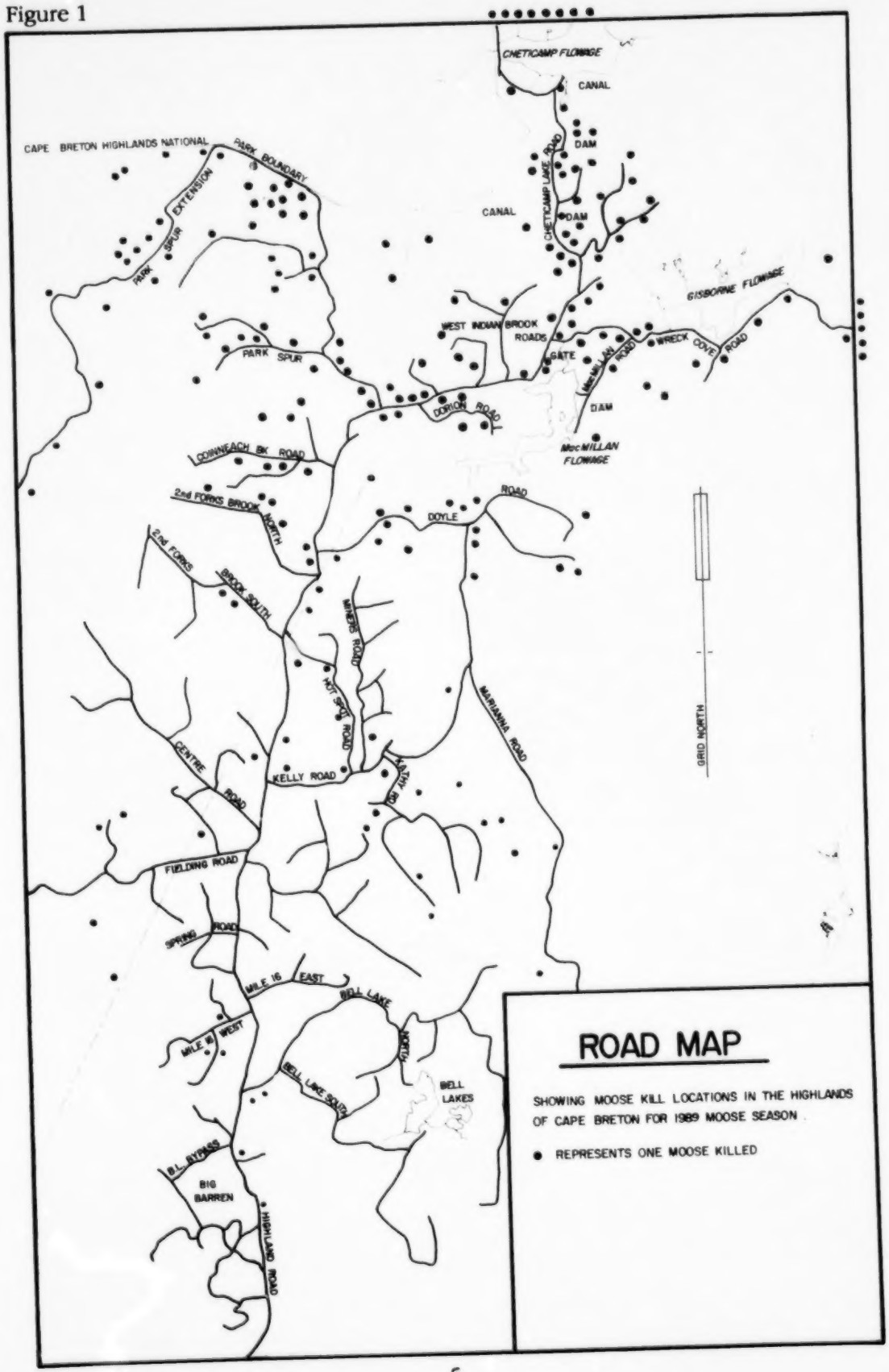
Table 5. *Antler Measurements by Age, Nova Scotia, 1989.*

AGE	NUMBER MEASURED	SPREAD (cm)	NUMBER MEASURED	AVERAGE POINTS
0.5	3	0.0	3	
1.5	19	61.5	21	6
2.5	41	100.3	42	13
3.5	24	118.9	25	18
4.5	15	122.8	15	18
5.5-6.5	5	154.6	6	22
7.5-8.5	2	119.5	2	21
9.5-10.5	1	146.0	1	14
11.5-13.5	1	123.0	1	11
14.5-16.5	0		0	

Table 6. *Hours Hunting by Hunting Parties, Lynx Observations and Hours Per Observation, Successful Moose Hunters, Nova Scotia, 1989.*

HUNT	TOTAL PERSONS	AVERAGE PARTY	TOTAL HOURS	HOURS/ PARTY	LYNX OBS.	HOURS/ OBS.
LICENSED	639	3.80	10,315.91	61.40	11	938.00
NATIVE	127	3.26	1660.00	43.68	3	553.33
TOTAL	766	3.70	11,975.91	57.85	14	855.42

Figure 1


CAPE BRETON HIGHLANDS NATIONAL PARK BOUNDARY
PARK EXTENSION
PARK SPUR
PARK SPUR
CONNEACH BK ROAD
2nd FORKS BROOK NORTH
2nd FORKS BROOK SOUTH
CENTRE ROAD
FIELDING ROAD
SPRING ROAD
MILE 16 EAST
MILE 16 WEST
B.L. BYPASS
BIG BARREN
HIGHLAND ROAD
BELL LAKE SOUTH
BELL LAKE
BELL LAKES
KELLY ROAD
HOT SPOT ROAD
MINERS ROAD
MARIANNA ROAD
DORION ROAD
DOYLE ROAD
CHETICAMP FLOWAGE
CANAL
DAM
CHETICAMP LAKE ROAD
CANAL
DAM
WEST INDIAN BROOK ROADS
GATE
MacMILLAN ROAD
WRECK COVE ROAD
GISBORNE FLOWAGE
DAM
MacMILLAN FLOWAGE
GRID NORTH
ROAD MAP
SHOWING MOOSE KILL LOCATIONS IN THE HIGHLANDS OF CAPE BRETON FOR 1989 MOOSE SEASON.
● REPRESENTS ONE MOOSE KILLED